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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funding Consideration Deadline Announced**

*Lakewood, CO* – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that applications received through December 9, 2005, will be considered for enrollment in the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Applications received after December 9, 2005, will be considered during subsequent enrollment periods.

*“There has never been a better opportunity for landowners to receive financial assistance through EQIP. Over the past few years, we have seen unprecedented support for this program which allows us to provide greater assistance in the conservation of our natural resources,”* states Dennis Alexander, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. *“Any landowner who has considered enrolling is encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible.”*

Interested applicants may apply in person at the [NRCS Field Office](#) that services their county. Field Offices are located in USDA Service Centers across the State. Applications can also be downloaded from the [NRCS website](#) and submitted by facsimile or mail to a local NRCS Field Office.

EQIP is a voluntary cost-share program that provides financial assistance for conservation systems such as animal waste management facilities, irrigation system efficiency improvements, fencing and water supply development for improved grazing management, riparian protection, and wildlife habitat enhancement.